

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 22, 2005

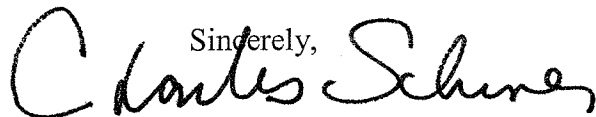
Attorney General Alberto Gonzales
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Gonzales:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the alleged involvement of Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, a graduate and former valedictorian of the Islamic Saudi Academy (ISA), in providing material support to terrorists and in conspiring to assassinate the President of the United States. It has been reported that the funding for this school can be linked to the Saudi Arabian government. For too long the Saudi Arabian government has turned a blind eye to terrorism and the question really is, "is this school another example of that." I therefore urge you to initiate a preliminary investigation into the funding sources of this academy.

The recent reports regarding Ahmed Omar Abu Ali are particularly troubling because this is not the first instance in which those connected to the ISA, located in Alexandria, Virginia, have been linked with terrorism or the exportation of intolerant and hateful teachings. A former comptroller of the ISA, Ismael Selim Elbarasse, has been referred to by authorities as a high-ranking Hamas operative who was arrested in August while videotaping the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and has been implicated in efforts to channel financing to international terrorist activities. In March of 2002, ISA graduate Mohammad Osman Idris was charged with lying to a U.S. grand jury investigating whether he and another ISA graduate planned to take part in acts of terror or violence against the State of Israel. The grand jury was investigating whether Idris was attempting to provide key support to Hamas and Islamic Jihad. These incidents represent a deeply disturbing and repeated pattern of linkages between individuals associated with ISA and terrorism.

The continued association of the ISA with individuals linked to terror within the United States must be addressed. Accordingly, I urge you to immediately investigate the means by which the Islamic Saudi Academy is funded to determine whether there is any link to terrorism.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate